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FIGHT THE RACIST WITCH HUNT



Socialist Worker

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- **JUNIOR DOCTORS STRIKE AGAINST TORIES**
- **STUDENT NURSES REBEL OVER THE CUTS**

FIGHT FOR OUR NHS



JUNIOR DOCTORS on the picket line at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham PICTURE: PA

by **TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS**

JUNIOR DOCTORS struck across England on Tuesday of this week to defend their contracts—and the NHS.

It was the first of three planned walkouts for junior doctors in the British Medical Association (BMA).

They are fighting health secretary Jeremy Hunt's plans to impose a new contract that would slash pay, rip up terms and conditions and put patients at risk.

Nicki, a BMA rep at Whipps Cross in east London told Socialist Worker, "We're out because Jeremy Hunt is not taking our concerns about patient safety seriously. The new contract

would not be safe."

The picket lines were large and lively and hundreds of "Meet the Doctors" events took place across Britain.

The Tories are refusing to budge on the key issue of robust safeguards against junior doctors working a dangerous amount

>>Turn to pages 4&5

GERMANY

Anti-racists take on politicians' panic on refugees

RACIST politicians are trying to use horrific New Year's Eve attacks on women in different German cities to push back against solidarity with refugees.

This has boosted racist groups. But a 4,000-strong anti-fascist counter demonstration outnumbered the racist protests.

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HOUSING



Housing is a weapon in the Tories' class war

THE TORIES present their new Housing and Planning Bill as a way to help people find homes.

But Simon Elmer from the campaign Architects for Social Housing told Socialist Worker it is a "social engineering programme that has zero to do with building homes".

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REFUGEES

French state prepares a new clampdown

FRENCH authorities are preparing to bulldoze huge swathes of the "jungle" refugee camp in Calais.

It will affect hundreds of people. The state will also open an official camp. This is aimed at trapping and controlling migrants.

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Davey Cameron is a pie'

Jeremy Corbyn's Twitter is hacked

'David Cameron has died'

Fiona Winchester was reading the news for Heart FM—she meant David Bowie

'I don't like communists'

Noel Gallagher explains his waning support for Labour

'She is resigning from something that doesn't exist'

Labour leadership response to Alison McGovern, MP for Wirral South and chair of the Blairite group Progress, resigning from a review into child poverty

'I was told "not to take the piss"'

John McDonnell on Jeremy Corbyn's thoughts on sending Tony Blair flowers for raising his profile

'The doctors' strike is called off'

London Tory mayor Boris Johnson decides to cancel the junior doctors' strike

'Murderer, Murderer, Murderer'

Protesters shout at Iain Duncan Smith as he visits a job centre in Peckham and hides face behind a copy of the Daily Mail newspaper



Economy strong—Tory cuts Economy weak—Tory cuts

BUNGLING Baron George Osborne warned against complacency over the economy last week.

Osborne's definition of "success" is an expensive nightmare with rising prices, low wages and huge profits. And "difficult decisions" are his decisions but will be difficult for us.

Osborne blamed a "toxic cocktail" of global problems which had left the economy under threat.

He highlighted China's slowdown, the crisis between Iran and Saudi Arabia and falling commodity prices. And he warned there must be no "creeping complacency" about the prospects for recovery.

His claims of recovery were proof the cuts worked.

His claim the economy is in danger are proof we need

more cuts.

Osborne's Office for Budget Responsibility said his spending plans are based on cash "found down the back of the sofa", which could disappear in the coming years.

"What the sofa gives, the sofa can easily take away," it warned.

Which if nothing else suggests Osborne has a bigger sofa than us.

This is nothing new for the Tories. In November 2014 David Cameron talked of "red warning lights ... flashing on the dashboard of the global economy" and was quickly backed up by Osborne.

They were preparing the ground for more austerity. In January 2016 Osborne is doing the same—the world economy is shaky and the Tories want us to foot the bill again.

George of the Bungle

UKIP'S DELUSIONAL Nigel Farage has said he was wrong to claim that a wheel coming off his car was an attempt on his life.

Police and a mechanic then said they had never suspected foul play.

Farage said he made a "terrible mistake", adding, "My view is whether it was deliberately tampered with or not, what happened, happened."

Nasty Nigel

THE NAZI BNP has been removed from the register of political parties, after failing to pay a £25 fee. The Electoral Commission said they will not be allowed to use the party's name or logo to stand in elections. Unfortunately if the master race can get a friend to fill in the form properly they may get reinstated.

£175 a month isn't a living wage m'lord

ARE YOU able to tie a flawless Windsor knot, run a bath to your master's preferred temperature and mix the perfect gin and tonic?

You could qualify for work as butler to the British High Commission in Colombo.

James Dauris, Britain's high commissioner to Sri Lanka, is seeking to augment the staff at his residence with that



British aristocratic household: a butler.

For a modest £175 a month, the successful candidate will work six days a week.

"This role will involve working regularly with high-level visitors," the advertisement states. Underlining that some elements of international diplomacy never change, the high commission also seeks a candidate with, "hands-on knowledge of spirits and all beverages".

The successful applicant for the post in Colombo will have to be "an enthusiastic self-starter with initiative and energy" and have a talent for multi-tasking.

Thatcher flogging some whiteboards

AN AUCTION of Baroness Thatcher's private items raised a whopping £4.5 million last month. A role has been found which fits the dignity of her Lords robes—flogging office equipment!

Her ermine gown—which sold at Christie's for £84,000—will now be used as a promotional prop by British firm Magic Whiteboard Ltd.

Maggie fan and Magic Whiteboard owner Neil Westwood tells his local paper,

"We're actually going to Japan in July, to a trade exhibition in Tokyo and we'll be the only British people there, so we want to use the robes to attract people to our stall."

IT'S irritating when you lose your keys. And expensive.

Prisons minister Andrew Selous revealed that it did happen at the young offenders' lock-up in Portland, Dorset. The locksmith's

Vermin's ermine

Scots foot Amazon bill

AMAZON received almost £1 million in Scottish government grants last year.

The public cash included £665,000 for the development of "a new fulfilment centre to satisfy demands" in Dunfermline.

And £224,788 for "training and management development" at the same location.

Last year the company's takings rose to £5.3 billion, but it paid just £11.9 million in tax.

Dunfermline is Amazon's largest centre in Britain and staff are currently being bused in from Glasgow and Dundee—but they are charged £10.



100

library closures in 2015

441

closed since 2010—one in four of the total

6,000

library workers jobs lost

Hillsborough families slam watchdog

FAMILIES OF those killed in the Hillsborough disaster have called for the immediate removal of one of The Sun newspaper's most senior journalists from the board of the new press regulator.

Last month, the Independent Press Standards Organisation (Ipso) announced that Trevor Kavanagh, who was the paper's political editor and associate editor and is still a columnist, would be joining its board. He played a key role in the tabloid's infamous accusations that Liverpool fans had urinated on rescuers and pickpocketed dead victims during the 1989 disaster.

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Refugees in French camps to resist cruel clampdown

by DAVE SEWELL

FRENCH AUTHORITIES were set to bulldoze huge swathes of the refugees' "jungle" shantytown in Calais by the end of this week at just days' notice.

Regional prefect Fabienne Buccio announced plans to clear out any tents or shelters within 100 metres of the motorway embankment that forms the jungle's border.

This will affect 500 people by her own figures—and far more according to activists.

L'Auberge des Migrants charity activist Christian Salome pointed out that "100 metres is the distance that allows riot police to fire teargas bombs without risking getting hit by stones".

He warned that it was "the first step in dismantling" the jungle.

Aid agencies say they won't have time to help most of the refugees affected by the clearance to relocate, meaning they will be left in the mud and rain-soaked jungle.

Decline

In a statement refugees living in the camp said, "We the united people of the jungle Calais respectfully decline the demands of the French government with regards to reducing the size of the jungle".

"We have decided to peacefully resist the government's plans to destroy our homes."

Cops regularly fill the jungle with tear gas. Activists report seeing them stand alongside far right thugs as they throw stones at refugees.

Now Calais police have been sent three military-type armoured vehicles to police refugees.

The number suggests the highest levels of government may be preparing to intervene.

To deploy more than two at once would need the authorisation of



CONDITIONS AT Grande-Synthe camp are said to be worse than Calais

prime minister Manuel Valls.

This week also marks the opening of the government's official camp in Calais.

A few hundred refugees deemed the most vulnerable will be allowed to sleep in refitted shipping containers.

But all the state's "humanitarian" measures are aimed at trapping migrants under its control.

Many end up detained or deported.

The lockdown in Calais—part funded by Britain's Tories—has seen other shantytowns spring up in the region.

In the largest at Grande-Synthe near Dunkirk up to 3,000 people face conditions even worse than Calais.

Block

Cops are obstructing aid, and regional authorities tried to block local plans to build a refugee camp with charity Doctors Without Borders.

There is resistance from refugees and their supporters.

A demonstration was set to take place in Boulogne outside the trial of volunteer Rob Lawrie on Thursday of this week.

He tried to help a young Afghani girl reach relatives in Leeds after her father pleaded with him to get her out of the Jungle.

The girl is back in the Jungle and Rob faces a possible five years in jail or a fine of more than £20,000.

And anti-racists from across Britain and France are set to protest in Calais on Saturday 23 January, as Greek and Turkish groups demonstrate at the European Union's land border.

The more cruel the clampdown on refugees in France, the more urgent the need to force the Tories to let them into Britain.

Join the demonstrations on 19 March standuptoracism.org.uk

TURKEY

Syrians fleeing war deported by EU deal

OVER 250 refugees were deported from Beirut airport in Lebanon to Syria on Friday of last week.

Amnesty International slammed the Lebanese government for putting refugees in "mortal danger". But much of the blame lies with David Cameron.

The trigger was new rules introduced by the Turkish government that stopped refugees travelling to Turkey.

As of last Friday any Syrians arriving in Turkey by air and sea must have visas first or be turned back. Previously they could stay in the country visa-free for up to 90 days.

Turkey has been clamping down on Syrian refugees as part of a deal with the European Union (EU) last November.

This commits it to "stemming the influx of irregular migrants".

Cameron and German chancellor Angela Merkel were among those who pushed hardest for the deal, with Britain the first government to pledge funding.

Despite thousands of arrests and deportations, EU vice president Frans Timmermans warned Turkey on Monday of this week that much more was needed.

He said that refugee numbers were still "way too high" and that "we cannot be satisfied at this stage".

ON THE WEB

Top five hits this week on www.socialistworker.co.uk

- 1 Sexism is not a foreign import—German socialists respond to Cologne attacks
- 2 Junior doctors strike—photos from the picket lines
- 3 Religion—is it just 'the opium of the masses'?
- 4 Divisions on Europe will dominate Tories
- 5 Tory spin on cuts doesn't wash with flood victims

A big thank you

to everyone who donated to the Socialist Worker appeal



Your generous donations raised £119,954, which will go towards sustaining and improving Socialist Worker as a fighting voice of resistance, anti-racism and socialism.

Any final contributions are welcome! socialistworker.co.uk/appeal

A cover up by Paris cops?

FRENCH POLICE shot a man dead in Paris on Thursday of last week. Their version of events rapidly went around the world's media.

But within days it began to fall apart.

A series of witnesses came forward to say the man was not, as cops claimed, shouting "Allahu akbar", brandishing a knife or trying to storm the police station.

After he was identified as Tunisian Tarek Belgacem, people claiming to be his parents told the media he has "not radicalised" and had gone to the station

for a passport to visit them.

There are doubts as to their identity. And a meat cleaver was apparently found near Belgacem's body, as were documents linking him to Isis.

But witnesses raise important questions as to whether police shot a man dead they could easily have immobilised otherwise—then lied to cover it up.

One officer fired bullets into the air while policing a Kurdish demonstration last Saturday.

This reinforced fears that the cops can't be trusted with guns.



A Paris cop



Junior docs strike blow against the Tory plan to wreck NHS

●continued from front

of hours. Junior doctors already work between 80 and 90 hours a week and many stay after their shifts have finished.

Nicki said, “The simple fact is tired doctors make mistakes—it wouldn’t be safe for patients.”

Hunt and the right wing press are pumping out propaganda about “greedy” doctors living “luxurious” lifestyles.

But in central London, junior doctor Anushka said, “Even if they offered us a 50 percent pay rise tomorrow we’d still be here saying the contracts are unsafe.”

Hunt tried to buy the doctors off with an 11 percent pay rise. But Millie, a junior doctor at the Royal London, said, “The 11 percent is just spin. That’s just for normal hours, but I rely on unsocial hours for half of my income.

“So it would still be a pay cut of up to 25 percent.”

The proposed contract would reclassify “unsocial hours”—such as weekends—as “plain hours”.

At the Royal London Hospital in east London around 20 junior doctors leafleted Whitechapel Tube Station.

Up to 100 picketed the hospital’s main entrance—and were joined by a group of student nurses fighting bursary cuts (see right).

Student nurse Anna

said: “We’re



Pickets in Ealing, West London

PICTURE: STEFAN SIMMS

BACK STORY

Health secretary Jeremy Hunt wants to make junior doctors work longer for less

●They voted by 98 percent to strike against his new contract last year, on a 76 percent turnout

●Those strikes were called off for talks, but Hunt’s henchman refused to budge on safety

●Tuesday of this week saw the first of three planned strikes called after talks failed

●The next planned strike is 48 hours from Tuesday 26 January

supporting the junior doctors because this is an attack on the NHS. The Tories are putting profit before people and there won’t be safe levels of staffing for patients.”

The junior doctors are next set to walk out for 48 hours on Tuesday 26 January—potentially alongside London Underground workers.

Hunt’s attack is part of the Tories’ plans to bring in “seven day working” into the NHS. By smashing up workers’ pay and conditions they hope to soften the NHS up for privatisation.

If the Tories can force junior doctors to work nights and weekends without more pay they will roll it out for many other workers.

But the strike shows the growing revolt in the NHS—and acted as a focus for resistance to Tory austerity.



NEW DAWN for doctors on the picket line in Bradford

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

Health students march against Osborne’s great bursary robbery

AROUND 5,000 student nurses, midwives and other health students marched through London last Saturday. Chants of, “Doctors and nurses, unite and fight” and, “Jeremy Hunt has got to go” rang out.

They are fighting Tory plans to axe NHS bursaries for student nurses, midwives, occupational therapists and others.

Lizzie and Oliver came from Exeter. “There’s no way I could afford to do nursing without the bursary,” said Lizzie. “I’ve got two kids and can’t give up everything.”

Oliver added, “You’d come out with £51,000 in debt and have to start paying it back on a salary of £21,000.”

Many people hoping to join the NHS are mature students such as trainee midwife Emily. “I’m 34 years old with a young child,” she explained. “You’re working for essentially nothing—after I’ve paid for childcare there’s basically nothing left.”

Student mental health nurse Sami added, “I’ve had to take



On the march last Saturday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

a bar job because I can’t afford not to work. My bursary doesn’t even cover my rent—as soon as it comes in it’s gone.”

The demo assembled at St Thomas’ Hospital in south London then marched to Downing Street.

Shadow health secretary Heidi Alexander read out a text from Jeremy Corbyn. She said, “The Labour Party is on your side.”

Danielle, one of the organisers,

told the rally, “They’re dismantling the NHS piece by piece—we all need to unite.”

Occupational therapy student Jenny Leow called on students to support the junior doctors. “We need to escalate our campaign,” she said. “When the junior doctors have a full strike on 10 February we should walk out for half a day.”

Longer version online at socialistworker.co.uk/art/41958/H

Solidarity in a fight for us all

MANY PICKET lines saw solidarity from patients, students and other trade unionists.

A group of around 40 people marched up to the BMA picket line outside York Hospital. Branches of the Unison, Unite and UCU unions carried their banners and made speeches in support.

Council vehicles appeared in a convoy tooting their horns and waving their union banners from the windows. Some of the unwashed vehicles had “Solidarity with the NHS” handwritten in the dirt.

Around 100 strikers and supporters rallied at the picket line outside Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Manuel Cortes, general secretary of TSSA union, was on the Whipps Cross picket line in east London. He told



Unity at Barts in east London

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Socialist Worker, “If we don’t take a stance now, the things we hold dear such as the NHS will be things of the past.”

Yannis Gourtsoyannis, who sits on the BMA’s junior doctors’ committee, was on the University College Hospital (UCH) picket line in central London.

He told Socialist Worker, “What’s really heartened us is the support from local trade unionists, patients and the public.

“I’m very confident

that we can win.”

Every trade unionist and campaigner needs to build solidarity for the next walkouts,

And Unison, Unite, GMB and the other health unions should ballot their members immediately and join the growing NHS revolt.

Yannis said, “Our struggle is a key struggle for everyone.

If we lose the Tories will come for other health workers—that’s why we need to win.”

Download solidarity materials from swp.org.uk/resources/latest

‘Most patients support us’

PICKETS were very well-organised in Oldham, with a gazebo, camping stove, packed lunches, hot porridge, tea, and plenty of cake.

There was a positive mood among 15 junior doctors picketing at Southmead Hospital, in Bristol.

People beeped their horns and other workers came to get stickers in support.

At Chelmsford in Essex, a BMA rep said, “It’s been a long



Patients join pickets in Oldham

PICTURE: ADAM ROSE

battle. Most patients are supportive but there is a lot of scaremongering out there particularly from

the press.”

Thanks to all who sent reports. Go to our online photo gallery at bit.ly/22XvmaY

TUC says call walkouts to defend union rights

A GOVERNMENT watchdog has warned the Tories’ Trade Union Bill could breach human rights.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission said it could impose “potentially unlawful restrictions” on the right to strike ahead of the bill’s second reading in the House of Lords on Monday of this week.

Trade union leaders and rank and file activists joined a protest held by the Trade Union Coordinating Group outside as peers debated the bill.

The next step is a week of action in England and Wales called by the TUC between 8-14 February. The Scottish TUC

is holding a day of action on Monday 22 February, according to the PCS union.

Activists are encouraged to organise a “big workplace meeting” on 9 February with a live link-up to TUC head Frances O’Grady.

A day of action has also been called for 11 February.

“Maybe your workplace will do a rally or lunchtime walkout?” the TUC suggests.

The week is an opportunity to provide a focus for industrial disputes with junior doctors set for a “full withdrawal of labour” on 10 February and industrial action on the London Tube.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

CORBYN MUST STAND FIRM ON TRIDENT NUKES

DOES THE Labour Party support spending tens of billions of pounds on new nuclear weapons that threaten the future of the earth?

Later this year parliament will vote on the renewal of Trident. How Labour votes is crucial in itself, but it is also a symbol of the fight over its leader Jeremy Corbyn.

The Tories and their pliant media will seek to redouble their slurs against Corbyn and paint him as a threat to national security.

But Corbyn’s most deadly critics come from those who are meant to be on his side.

Corbyn rightly made ditching Trident nuclear weapons part of his campaign for the Labour leadership. But the Labour right are determined to stop him.

They are joined by some trade union leaders such as Sir Paul Kenny of the GMB and Len McCluskey of Unite.

Corbyn has suggested that Labour members should be balloted on the issue, leading to a storm of protest.

The Labour right, like the Tories, argue that the British state needs

to retain the power to bully other nations. The union leaders say it’s about jobs.

This week Kenny said he would convene a conference of Trident workers—in order to whip up a campaign against Corbyn.

It is no argument to say that, yes, Trident might mean nuclear annihilation, but at least it provides decent work. And the alternatives are obvious.

In October the Tory chair of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee said that Trident replacement could cost £167 billion. That money would provide the investment for replacement jobs for those who work on Trident many times over.

“The Labour right argue that Britain needs the power to bully other nations

Instead of making weapons of mass destruction they could, for example, work on the desperately-needed projects set out in the Million Climate Jobs report.

No compromise is possible. Either Labour has clear policy to abandon Trident or it doesn’t.

The forces seeking to eliminate Corbyn’s policies are not backing off. Last week’s shadow cabinet reshuffle wounded the right without really confronting them.

They are now pumping out more threats and lies.

Joe Haines, a former Labour prime ministerial press secretary, wrote this week, “Either Corbyn goes or the party itself is a goner. Those who believe otherwise are the Flat Earthers of British politics”.

Catherine McKinnell stepped down as shadow attorney-general on Monday of this week.

Everyone who hates war and austerity has to support Corbyn against the Tories and the right—and urge him not to back off.

He will not win by manoeuvres or backroom deals.

We need a mass movement on the streets. The anti-Trident CND demo on 27 February is vital.

CAMERON’S CONTEMPT

DAVID CAMERON launched a fresh attack on poor people this week, in the name of helping them.

He claimed a plan to bulldoze “sink estates” would help “blitz” poverty. And he rolled out lazy stereotypes to justify it.

He bemoaned the “brutal high-rise towers” with their “gangs and anti-social behaviour”. He denounced the “dark alleyways that are a gift to criminals and drug dealers”.

He even wrote, “The riots of

2011 didn’t emerge from within terraced streets or low-rise apartment buildings.

“The rioters came overwhelmingly from these post-war estates. That’s not a coincidence.”

Many people live in poor housing and deserve better. But Cameron’s plan isn’t aimed at helping them—it’s aimed at increasing privatisation.

Cameron’s rhetoric treats poorer tenants as a problem. Yet the real problems are a lack of

funding for decent housing, jobs and services that could transform people’s lives. Tory policies—slashing jobs, attacking benefits, cutting pay—push poverty up.

Just days earlier Cameron said people should attend parenting classes. The implication was that poor parenting is the cause of problems in society, rather than Tory policies.

Cameron claimed he wants people to feel they have a “real future”. The only way to do that is to stop the Tory assault.

SOCIALIST

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EUROPEAN UNION

Call for left exit in Europe referendum

CONFERENCE debated what position to take in the coming referendum on the European Union (EU).

Joseph Choonara from the central committee argued that the SWP should campaign for Britain to leave the EU. He said, “The basis of our argument is a question of political principle.”

Joseph outlined how the EU is “driving through neoliberal politics in the most brutal way” from the TTIP trade deal to the blackmail of Greece.

“It’s a sign of solidarity with Greek comrades to argue for the break-up of the EU,” he said.

But Barry from Bradford argued that the situation was different from Greece. “This is a ruling class faction fight,” he said.

Campaign

Dave from Bristol said the main beneficiaries of a vote to leave would be “David Cameron and Ukup”. He argued for a campaign of spoiling ballots, but other delegates said that this would mean not taking a clear position.

Sally Campbell from the central committee said that it was more than just a than a fight at the top. “This will shape the debates in the workers’ movement,” she said.

Left wing defenders of

CLIMATE CHANGE

AN IMPORTANT discussion on climate change took place. SWP members described a movement that has grown in confidence in recent years.

It produced Britain’s biggest ever protest over the issue last year when 70,000 took to the streets of London.

Martin from Manchester introduced the discussion. He said anti-capitalism was increasingly popular in the movement and argued for a “focus on the Tories as the enemy of the environment”.

Chris from York argued

the EU point to the free movement of labour inside it. Andy from Coventry argued that “this is a referendum on immigration”. But Joseph said, “There is no freedom of movement if you’re a Syrian or an Afghan or an Eritrean fleeing persecution”.

Claire from east London told conference it had taken her a long time to see the left wing case for leaving the EU. “But now I think there’s a big a difference between international institutions and internationalism,” she said.

Joseph called for “genuine internationalism” against the “racist exclusionary project” of the EU’s “Fortress Europe”.

Others raised concerns about how to put the argument to migrant workers. Geoff from Manchester asked, “What do we put on the leaflet to Poles?”

One delegate read out a statement from a Polish migrant worker, who’d been called into work. It said, “I live and work in this country because of the free movement.”

“But I cannot support the EU after what it’s done to Greece, Spain, Portugal or after seeing how it brings death and misery to refugees.”

“The EU is connected to the neoliberal capitalist order.”

Conference voted overwhelmingly to support a left-wing, internationalist, anti-racist vote to leave in the EU referendum.

that the scale of the climate crisis meant, “We have to link class issues to the movement.”

“The floods, for example, hit poorer people more.”

Paul from Chesterfield reported on how his branch had organised in the run-up to the recent Paris climate change talks.

Suzanne from Islington in north London said, “The trajectory of the movement is leftward moving and more radical.”

“We can’t underestimate the scale of the movement.”

CONFERENCE DEMOCRACY

THE CONFERENCE elected the leadership bodies of the SWP. The central committee, which leads the organisation on a daily basis, was elected unopposed. Its members are Alex Callinicos, Amy Leather, Brian R, Charlie Kimber, Jo C, Joseph Choonara, Judith Orr, Julie Sherry, Mark L Thomas, Michael Bradley, Paul

McG, Sally Campbell, Sue C and Weyman Bennett. The conference voted for a national committee of 52 members that helps guide the party’s work. Comrades made almost 200 contributions from the floor. Each session saw a number of comrades chosen to prepare a commission to reflect the discussion and to propose activities.

Build up the movement that helped Corbyn win

Revolutionaries debated the political situation and how to shape it at the 2016 Socialist Workers Party conference

CHARLIE KIMBER from the central committee introduced a session on politics after Jeremy Corbyn’s victory as Labour leader.

He said this was a “sea change in British politics” and a “breath of fresh air” that has boosted everyone on the left and given new confidence to activists.

It is part of a wider trend of support for left reformists—such as Syriza in Greece, Podemos in Spain and the Economic Freedom Fighters in South Africa. And it has made it much easier to talk about socialism and resistance to austerity.

Charlie said, “We are unequivocally on the side of Corbyn against the Tories, the media and the Labour right.”

Generate

He said revolutionaries must seek out united front joint work with Corbyn supporters. Building strong movements would help generate more support for Corbyn too.

“We are the strongest opponents of the Labour right, which is seeking to remove Corbyn,” he said. “We defend Corbyn by strengthening workers’ struggles and the mobilisations against austerity



CONFERENCE DELEGATES vote on SWP policy

PICTURE: GEOFF DEXTER

war, racism and other issues that helped to propel him to victory in the first place.” He added that it isn’t enough simply to back Corbyn and called for “the united front and political clarity”.

Charlie argued that reformist parties centred on parliament don’t stress resistance enough. Labour’s focus on parliament means that MPs have incomparably more weight than their numbers deserve.

Pressure from the parliamentary Labour Party has already seen Corbyn make concessions. Charlie said, “We need independent

revolutionary organisation”. Many comrades in the discussion reported big changes in local Labour Parties after Corbyn’s victory. People stressed the widespread support for Corbyn.

Manchester student Bethan said much of the existing left on her campus had joined Labour.

Sam from Cambridge pointed out that “Corbynistas” were not necessarily Labour Party members and said we needed to locate them too.

Delegates argued that in Scotland Corbyn’s election has had less impact than in

England as many see Labour as the party that sided with the Tories to save the British Union. But the mood is not wholly different.

There was debate over standing election candidates to the left of Labour. Some said socialists should not stand against Labour as Corbyn is under attack.

Others said that Labour councils are making cuts and said we couldn’t rule out standing in some places.

Conference agreed to further discussion over elections and that “we should not entirely rule out standing”.

FIGHTING IMPERIALSIM

Defend and reenergise campaign to stop war

THE CONFERENCE opened with a session on war and imperialism.

Central committee member Alex Callinicos argued, “Imperialism has seen shifts in the relative power between states, including a relative decline in the power of the US.”

Alex said disastrous wars in the Middle East and the Arab revolutions had “exposed the US’s weaknesses”.

The war in Syria has led to a revival of anti-war protests in Britain. Alex said the establishment has tried to attack Jeremy Corbyn by attacking the Stop the War Coalition.

The SWP utterly rejects such assaults and stands



A Western fighter jet

with Corbyn and Stop the War against such slurs.

Alex said, “Centrally we are part of Stop the War and we want to re-energise it as a mass movement.”

Delegates said the political radicalisation of young people has transformed anti-war demonstrations and groups. Phil from

Bristol said, “We had a 1,000-strong demonstration organised by school students. We filled the coach to the demonstration in London and had one of the 14 year old organisers on it.”

Mike from Brighton added, “We had nothing organised before, but on Thursday we had a Stop the War meeting with 200 people.”

Delegates argued the SWP must be at the heart of the anti-war movement.

Conference debated how to build a united front against war amid disagreements in the movement about the Arab revolutions and the Syrian dictatorship.

The SWP opposes all the bombing in Syria, and the Syrian regime. But such issues should not prevent the anti-war movement uniting against British warmongering.

Judith Orr from the SWP central committee is a Stop the War officer. She said, “Stop the War is still the vehicle for anti-war sentiment. Over 1,000 joined in the last six weeks.”

Judith argued that political differences shouldn’t stand in the way of building opposition to war. Delegates agreed to build on the anti-war mood and for a protest against Trident on 27 February.

ANTI-RACISM

Refugee solidarity is at heart of resisting racism

ANTI-RACISM WAS an important part of the conference. Weyman Bennett from the SWP central committee opened the discussion.

He pointed to the racist offensive but said anti-racists had successes during 2015. He called for building a mass movement, including going all-out to build anti-racist demonstrations planned for 19 March.

Weyman hailed the Refugees Welcome Here protest in London organised by Stand Up to Racism (SUTR) and others on 12 September as “a watershed”.

And he talked about the visits to the “jungle” refugee camp in Calais. “The experience of raising money for Calais, and the political debates that have followed, have pulled together a unique combination of people into a united front,” he said.

Many comrades said refugee solidarity had helped launch broad and active local SUTR groups—and politicised people.

Geoff from Birmingham said bringing people to Calais had been “transformative—they couldn’t help but be changed by it.”

Instinct

Rob from east London hailed the resistance to the government’s Prevent strategy.

Sharon from Birmingham said one Prevent instructor had told her to use “instinct” to identify “radicalisation”.

Rob said, “I want to make the Prevent witch hunt so discredited it becomes inoperable,” he said.

Comrades from Kent, York and Rotherham talked about organising against fascist groups. Weyman warned that the rise of racism and the Front National in France shows



Refugees march in Calais last year

what can happen if there isn’t a strong anti-racist movement.

He said, “You cannot have the scale of racist offensive that the Tories are talking about without some kind of reaction.”

Weyman said activists should “seize the time” and build a big, broad-based united front to combat Islamophobia and defend refugees.

Ameen from Manchester spoke about fighting for anti-racism in the trade union movement. He argued,

“Austerity and racism go hand in hand—to justify what they’re doing they try to divide us.”

Zak from Essex underlined that “all roads lead to 19 March”. “There is a potential, but it won’t be around forever,” he said.

Margaret from Glasgow concluded a report of massive pro-refugee activity in the city saying, “We need to get people to 19 March—it has to be bigger than anything before.”

BUILDING THE PARTY

Organise through struggle

A KEY discussion was how revolutionaries should relate to others involved in protests and build the SWP

“How we organise in the SWP stems from the needs of the class struggle,” argued Amy Leather from the central committee.

Amy added that it is not enough to be very good individual activists with no overall collective organisation to debate experience and strategy. For this, she said, “the branch is the crucial unit of the party”.

Many comrades discussed how best to organise. Julie from York said members there had “vibrant” meetings and had benefited from working alongside comrades in nearby Scarborough.

Some delegates stressed the importance of using social media to promote activity and meetings. Jan from Brixton, south London, said branch meetings are central to recruiting and retaining new members. She said people didn’t join simply after listening to a high-profile speaker but through “discussions with ordinary members”.

Many speakers spoke of the importance of following up contacts. Comrades also discussed the importance of making the party accessible. Rob from Birmingham said, “The SWP should be the party of disabled people.”

Others spoke about education in the party. Joseph from the central committee said Marxist ideas are “heavily contested on the left” and said we had to take

education of members seriously. Lorna from Glasgow spoke about holding successful cultural events and meetings, and said a “less formal environment” can provide another way of discussing politics and pulling in new people.

Student work must be central to all SWP branches. Lewis, who led off a session on the SWP’s student work,

said, “The political events of the summer have led to politicisation on campuses. Students are more open to socialist politics.”

Noor from Manchester said she joined the Socialist Worker Student Society (SWSS) after being part of campaigns and then attending a SWSS meeting.

She said, “I looked around and saw all the posters and went, these are all the issues I care about.”

KEY EVENTS

●SAT 6 FEB: UAF conference, London. Details, leaflets and book now at tinyurl.com/juxsmfj

●8-14 FEB: TUC week of action against new anti-union laws. For details go to tinyurl.com/h8kwdvc The Scottish TUC has called a day of action on 22 February.

●SAT 27 FEB: CND demo against Trident, London.

●SAT 19 MAR: Anti-racism demos, London, Glasgow and Cardiff

LGBT+

A focus for a radical mood

CENTRAL COMMITTEE member Sue opened up the discussion on LGBT+ liberation. She pointed out that LGBT+ politics had been a big part of mainstream and radical politics in 2015.

Michael, a teacher from north London, said, “I became an out gay teacher when Thatcher introduced Section 28 in 1988. The situation between then and now has changed.”

Sue argued that LGBT+ activists are open to campaigning with other oppressed groups. But she added that it was important to raise class politics.

Sami from London South Bank University said, “The role of class in LGBT oppression isn’t something you get in the mainstream, but once you hear it, it’s appealing.”

Sue said, “The London Pride demo was much more political and radical because of the trade union

bloc led by Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners. It provided a focus for the radical mood beneath the surface.”

Delegates argued that issues around trans and non-binary politics had become a big issue and the SWP needed to develop its theory on it.

Pat from Manchester said, “The SWP has written on trans and non-binary issues. But we need to go further, such as a trans 101 pamphlet, because this is going to be very topical.”

Delegates talked about initiatives the SWP had helped to take, such as LGBT Against Islamophobia and LGBT Support the Migrants.

Sue said, “We have something quite unique to say about LGBT+ oppression. Every comrade should feel they can intervene in these issues confidently.”



Anti-racists take on politicians promoting panic over refugees

Sexual attacks against women on New Year's Eve rocked Germany. The far right is trying to scapegoat refugees for it, writes **Dave Sewell**

RACIST POLITICIANS are trying to use horrific New Year's Eve attacks on women in German cities to push back against solidarity with refugees. Their attempts are also boosting racist groups.

More than 500 women have filed criminal complaints over attacks in Cologne—40 percent of them sexual assault cases including at least one alleged rape.

A leaked police report describes women having to “run an indescribable gauntlet of drunken men”. It said they threw firecrackers and bottles at the women, robbed them and groped them.

Similar incidents have been reported in Hamburg, Stuttgart and Bielefeld.

The attackers have been described as of north African appearance and some suspects are asylum seekers. Much of the ensuing debate has blamed Arab and Muslim “culture”.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has proposed changing the law to make it easier to deport asylum seekers who commit crimes.

This would introduce a two-tier system, where criminals who commit the same act would receive different punishments according to their country of origin.

Suspended

Cologne police chief Wolfgang Albers was suspended last Friday. Police initially played down the attacks, reporting a “calm” night despite later admitting the opposite.

Mayor Henriette Reker proposed a “code of conduct” telling women to keep at “arm’s length” from strangers to avoid attack.

This holds victims, instead of perpetrators, responsible for sexual assault. It underlines that sexual violence and the attitudes and structures behind it are fully part of European society.

Yet politicians have been quick to racialise it—and not just in Germany.

Belgium’s immigration minister Theo Francken announced compulsory classes for non-European migrants “on how to behave with women ... in our Western culture”.

The hypocrites at the top have legitimised racist gangs who carried out a series of organised beatings in Cologne last Sunday evening.

A group of several dozen attacked six Pakistanis near the train station where the New Year’s Eve assaults

BACK STORY

There was an outpouring of solidarity when Syrian refugees were admitted into Germany

● But now far right groups and racist politicians are trying to use attacks on women turn the tide on refugees

● More than 500 women have reported sexual attacks in Cologne on New Year’s Eve

● Many anti-racists in Germany are organising to combat racism and sexism

● They held a 4,000 strong anti-fascist demonstration last week

took place. Two victims were hospitalised. Separately, a Syrian refugee was attacked.

Several far right groups had put out calls on social media inciting vigilante attacks on foreign men. Police describe “deliberately provocative” groups gathering before the attacks.

This followed a “refugees not welcome” demonstration by racist organisations Pegida and Hodesa (Hooligans Against Salafism) in Cologne the previous day.

Police say 1,700 took part, though a local newspaper estimated 600 “drunken hooligans”.

Despite the backlash, the bigots aren’t going unopposed.

The racist demonstrations were dwarfed by a 4,000-strong anti-fascist counter demonstration.

Some 1,000 people joined it from an earlier flash mob against sexual violence in front of Cologne cathedral.

Another demonstration took place the previous week.

Many Germans are outraged at attempts to blame 1.1 million refugees for attacks by a tiny minority—especially from those who do nothing for women.

RALLY AGAINST racism and sexism in Cologne last Saturday

We need to fight racism and sexism—German socialists respond to attacks

SEXUAL VIOLENCE against women in Germany is a large and long term problem. Women are frequently sexually harassed at large festivals, including the Oktoberfest in Munich and the Carnival in Cologne.

One in seven women experience sexual violence, according to a new study. One in four are exposed to domestic violence.

The perpetrators are almost always men. But they come from a variety of religious and social backgrounds.

So there are more than enough reasons for an outcry over sexism and sexualised violence.

But both are closely connected to the dominant image of women and as a result sexual assaults are all too often not taken seriously.

Sexual molestation is only acknowledged in relation to the perpetrators’ supposed “culture”.

This has been used from the get-go, in a classic racist line of argument, to stoke existing

COMMENT

by **SILKE STOCKLE** and **MARION WEGSHEIDER** in Germany

anti-Muslim racism and strengthen an anti-refugee smear campaign.

The Sat1 TV network’s breakfast show demanded to “defend our values, way of life and beliefs” against “Muslim men”.

Misguided

Feminist Alice Schwarzer has expressed “understanding” for the racist Pegida movement’s core ideas and now speaks of a misguided tolerance towards Muslim men.

This debate has been ripe for the picking by the far right. Nazi groups and the Alternative for Germany party (AfD) demand Germany stop taking in all refugees to protect “our women”.

Yet women must protect

themselves from exactly these groups.

The AfD defends the heterosexual family as the only norm, with women in the classic motherhood role. It wants to further restrict abortion rights and campaigns against feminism.

The more moderate conservative party CSU also wrapped itself in lies. It said, “Whoever cannot accept respect for women cannot have a place here in Germany”—forgetting how it voted on marital rape in the not-too-distant past.

We must all take to the streets against sexism and racism.

There must be absolute clarity that women’s oppression in Germany is structurally determined.

In the struggle for women’s rights we cannot allow ourselves to be divided by racism. We must confront both sexism and racism with equal determination.

Silke and Marion are members of the German socialist group Marx21

An anti-racist protester

Nationalise uncaring industry

YOUR ARTICLE on the care home crisis was excellent and well researched (Socialist Worker, 9 January). No other national newspaper will print the truth about the labyrinth of private firms masquerading as caring organisations.

They treat older and disabled people no differently to chickens in battery farms. They want to squeeze maximum profit from the misery of being dependant on the state to meet basic human needs.

Seamus Monday
Waterford, Ireland

■ WHEN I worked for a private care company some of the stuff I found myself doing went way beyond the call of duty.

There's the cleaning up shit, washing and dressing, shopping, night sleeps and cooking. You have to drive around the community and the wear and tear on your car is not paid for by the company. On top of all that, the pay is poor.

Earning £6.50 an hour is not worth it when you consider that some supermarkets pay nearly £9 an hour for stacking shelves. It's no wonder you have people treated in this manner. It's the same in any industry where wages are kept low.

Let us not forget that some people who work for these care firms have no job security and work on zero hours contracts. Holiday pay is naff, sick pay is naff.

The care industry needs to be nationalised. That will eliminate the majority of those sorts of bad care practices.

Subyatee Bertram
Nottingham

Why is losing 65,000 jobs not a crisis, SNP?

SCOTTISH National Party (SNP) Aberdeenshire West MSP Dennis Robertson's claim last week that "there is no crisis" in the North Sea oil and gas industry was almost imaginary.

Come on Mr Robertson, really? You're out of touch. Do you want the meaning of crisis written out and read to you a couple of times?

Even the bosses' Oil and Gas UK said in September last year that 65,000 jobs

and £800 million had been slashed in a year.

Another £1.3 billion was to be cut this year. And it's not profits that'll be hurt.

Next time Robertson decides to deny the crisis offshore someone should remind him about the "jobs task force". It was set up and extended "for the foreseeable future" by his own SNP Scottish government.

James Furie
Aberdeen

BDS activists get Orange Israel cut off

FRENCH phone company Orange has announced it is dumping an Israeli affiliate. This follows a campaign by Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) activists.

Disgracefully Orange's Israeli affiliate will receive £37 million in compensation.

Orange Israel provided direct support to the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) during the assault on Gaza in 2014 that killed 2,200 Palestinians. It provided the IDF

£500 is nothing.

I went to Curry's electrical store and would have had to spend £3,500 for new stuff.

All you see lately is their van making deliveries.

It's the only shop for electrical goods people here can get to if they don't have a car.

Everyone's in the same boat, and Curry's are making thousands out of them.

So I asked, what help are you giving flood victims?

And they said, nothing. They wouldn't even give a five percent discount.

From a giant corporation I think that's disgusting.

I can't fault the volunteers. They have been incredible.

Three men walked past my house and asked if I needed any help.

They ended up coming in and tearing up my floor for me.

One woman brought around bacon sandwiches she'd made herself, another made a roast dinner for 25 people.

The other day we had Salford's lord mayor and the police chief come round.

I asked if they'd come to help, and they said no, we've come to look.

Local people have helped each other, while the council and the housing association have done jack.

Name provided
Lower Broughton, Salford



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Tories, councils and bosses do nothing for flood victims

Just a thought...
Support those we all rely on

JUNIOR DOCTORS have got my support. We must stand together as workers of the NHS, and the public who rely on these people when they are unwell.

Liz Sinar
on Facebook

Cameron doesn't care

IT IS no use David Cameron coming up north for photo opportunities when thousands of homes have been swamped and people left without power.

He has slashed funding for flood defences and cut jobs at the Environment Agency and the fire service.

Locals volunteer their services to help in any way they can.

They don't seek money, glory or fame—they do it because they care.

That's something Cameron doesn't understand.

John Appleyard
Liversedge, West Yorkshire

Big response for refugees

JUST BEFORE the Christmas break Camden Unison union branch raised over £820 for Save the Children Syria Crisis and one of the charities in Calais helping refugees.

To maximise donations, we called on the council chief executive to mention it in his weekly blog to all staff. We also asked for permission to collect inside council buildings.

This coincided with the first Syrian families being resettled in Camden—it was a very positive experience.

Phoebe Watkins
Central London

A Chilcot afternoon

I THINK we should start using the word "Chilcot" in everyday use.

It means a period of time that never ends.

For example, you are in work on a Friday afternoon and all you are thinking about is getting the weekend underway.

It seems that time has almost stopped.

You could say "this afternoon is just like a Chilcot!"

Neil Terry
on Facebook



with a free service and the firm also sponsored a military unit that took

part in the raid.

Orange is complicit in the violation of Palestinian rights through its direct investment and support for the occupation of Palestine.

But Orange will still retain a £11 million investment in Israel in an internet company.

After eight months of campaigning it's good to mark the successes. It's also vital that BDS campaigning continues.

Ayesha Saleem
Edinburgh

END OF AN ERA

Simon Hall spoke to Socialist Worker about his new book on 1956 and the events of a momentuous year

SIX DECADES ago a year of crises and struggles shook the postwar status quo, helping reshape the world of the 20th century.

In his new book 1956: The World in Revolt, author Simon Hall argues that the year ranks as one of the main “turning points and watersheds” in 20th century history.

He told Socialist Worker, “A lot of the book is about the different struggles waged across the world for greater freedoms. They were for more liberal Communist regimes in Eastern Europe, racial equality in the US or independence struggles in the old colonies.”

“It’s also the story of the way these forces clash with guardians of status quo. In most cases the people with power retain power—they are ruthless and successfully push back in the face of unprecedented challenges.”

“It shows that political change is messy and unpredictable. But it’s the outcome of those clashes that have consequences with real significance.”

The 1950s aren’t always seen as a time of radical change. But for Hall, 1956 was the harbinger of struggles and social changes that reached their high point a decade or more later.

“The 1950s suffer because they fall between the drama of depression and war and the glamour of the 1960s,” he said. “But that decade was much more significant than that.”

“I think it’s no coincidence that its ten years after the Second World War, and the promise of greater

freedom and equality embodied in that Atlantic Charter that all of the Allies signed up to.

“But a lot of the promises aren’t delivered. In the colonial world the British and French are reluctant to give up their power, even though the charter was taken seriously by people living in those colonies.”

“In the US its claims aren’t really meaningful for African Americans—there’s no real progress with getting rid of segregation.”

“In Eastern Europe the communist states that were built were Stalinist police states and were quite unpopular. There was the feeling that ‘people’s democracies’ hadn’t delivered good enough living standards and freedoms.”

Exploded

“There was a frustration that the kind of world that was promised hadn’t been created—that came to the surface and exploded in 1956.”

It’s this explosion that would impact on the struggles of the 1960s.

The first of what Hall calls the “three main historical forces at work” to break out in 1956 was “the revolt against institutionalised white supremacy in the United States and South Africa”.

“In the US in particular it was a key year in the emergence of the Civil Rights Movement,” he said.

In December 1955 Rosa Parks had been arrested for refusing to give

up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

In response Civil Rights activists, including Martin Luther King, launched a bus boycott.

It eventually forced the Supreme Court to rule segregated buses unconstitutional in December 1956.

Hall said, “In 1956 the Civil Rights struggle sees the emergence of what was at least in public the ‘non-violent approach’.”

“But that came up against an organised segregationist movement known as Massive Resistance.”

“It was aimed at marshalling Southern whites for an all-out defence of segregation.”

“That meant no compromise, no token desegregation, the use of every weapon to hold the colour line.”

“That fight played out over the next ten years.”

At that time many activists critical of capitalist states in the West looked to Soviet Russia and its client regimes in eastern Europe as an alternative.

But far from being socialist or communist societies run by workers,

these were brutal dictatorships where workers were just as exploited.

And 1956 saw the first uprising by workers in one of the most hardline regimes, Hungary.

Up to 20,000 students and others marched through the capital, Budapest, on 23 October.

They demanded “independence from foreign powers”, “democratic socialism” and “rights of free men”.

These demonstrations quickly spread and grew into an armed insurrection. People forced hardline rulers to resign and began running things through provincial councils. In Budapest workers set up a workers’ council—in Russian, a “soviet”.

Hall said, “Hungarian students first took to the streets partly out of solidarity with protests that had happened a couple of weeks before in Poland.”

“The Polish press had become prolific during the period of opening up and many of their articles were read in Hungary. They encouraged many Hungarian intellectuals and reformers to debate the same sort of

ideas—it was one of the triggers of what happened in Hungary.”

Economic stagnation in Russia and the death of long term dictator Joseph Stalin were already causing problems for Soviet rulers.

In 1953 new Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev made a “secret speech” denouncing Stalin’s “cult of personality”. He introduced minor reforms he hoped would solve their problems.

But this opened up the regimes to more radical criticism. Hall said, “Across Eastern Europe you can see people responding to the secret speech, but then also to events in neighbouring countries.”

It was Khrushchev that he

“reformer” who sent in Russian tanks to crush the uprising and installed a new Hungarian leadership.

But despite its ultimate failure, for Hall the revolution meant “1956 was a watershed for international communism.”

“As the historian Eric Hobsbawm said, the Bolshevik Revolution created an international communist movement and 1956 ended it,” he said. “That’s incredibly significant for the history of the 20th century.”

Thousands of people did resign from the official Communist parties that backed the Soviet regimes. But many became part of building a new left that sought to rediscover the genuine communist tradition.

Hall said, “The other theme in 1956 is the pushback against the colonial rule and the European empires.”

“The war in France’s colony Algeria intensified, while Morocco, Tunisia and Sudan all won independence in 1956.”

In particular, the Suez Crisis of 1956 “revealed the limitations of British power before the world”.

Egypt’s nationalist president Gamal Abdel Nasser, who had seized power from the Western-backed king four years earlier, nationalised the Suez Canal in July 1956. This had been an

economically and strategically central shipping route for the British Empire, and was increasingly important for Europe’s oil imports.

Its nationalisation threatened to set a precedent for other movements and regimes that wanted to shake off colonial domination and develop their own economies.

Israel invaded Egypt’s Sinai region in late October, followed closely by Britain and France.

But the Egyptian army, while beaten, was able to shut down the canal.

Britain and France’s governments were humiliated when the US president Dwight Eisenhower intervened to stop the invasion only days after they joined it.

British prime minister Anthony Eden resigned in January 1957, while his French counterpart Guy Mollet limped on until June.

Hall said, “This was really important because it’s essentially when the US replaced Britain as the major

power in the Middle East.”

And that had consequences that go right down to current day.

“The US was rhetorically and I think ideologically against colonialism, in that it opposed formal empire.”

“But it was perfectly happy to use informal power and shape the world in own image using its military resources and the cultural power it tried to wield as well.”

Eisenhower feared the invasion could threaten the US’s attempts to stop the Soviet Union from gaining allies and extending its reach in the Middle East.

“So Eisenhower was prepared to humiliate Britain and France, but that meant the US took Britain’s place.”

“The following year he proclaimed the ‘Eisenhower Doctrine’, which made the US the guarantor of ‘peace and security’ in the Middle East,” said Hall.

“When you look at the headlines today there’s a lot of resonance with 1956.”

“The Middle East is a hotbed of Western intrigue and popular frustration, and there’s the inability of the West to deal with that.”

Meanwhile in South East Asia, the US was also beginning to replace the French Empire which formally ended its rule of “Indochina” in 1954.

In Vietnam resistance forces had defeated the French, but imperial powers divided the country.

The North was ruled by Ho Chi Minh’s Communist Party and the

South by the Catholic despot Ngo Dinh Diem.

“Under the Geneva Accords there were supposed to be nationwide elections that would lead to the reunification,” said Hall.

“But Diem unilaterally decided they were not going to happen.”

“So 1956 is important in the creation of the fiction that there were two Vietnamese states.”

“It’s also the year that the US took on a much bigger military role and started sending ‘military advisers’.

“It was a step on the road to the US’s disastrous military involvement in South East Asia.”

Colonies

For Hall, the “three strands” of anti-racism in the West, democratic struggles in the East and rebellion in the old colonies are “all important in their own right”.

But he argues that 1956 is significant as the moment when “they all intensified” and “people drew inspiration, connections or were reacting to things happening elsewhere”.

“Martin Luther King caught the sense of 1956 being a year of revolution,” argue Hall.

“He talked about how all these struggles were part of a general upsurge of people’s movements—and these would shape the next ten years.”

For example, “In Britain the Suez Crisis undermined the establishment.”

“The people in charge saw themselves as being competent and almost infallible—but they clearly were not.”

“Not only did they lie by secretly colluding with the Israelis, they ended up getting Britain into a terrible pickle.”

“That helped to fuel what became later the end of deference and to socially and culturally push Britain towards more that spirit that you had in the 1960s.”

1956: The World in Revolt by Simon Hall is available from Bookmarks the socialist bookshop

Go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



Egyptian president Nasser



Spitting on Stalin



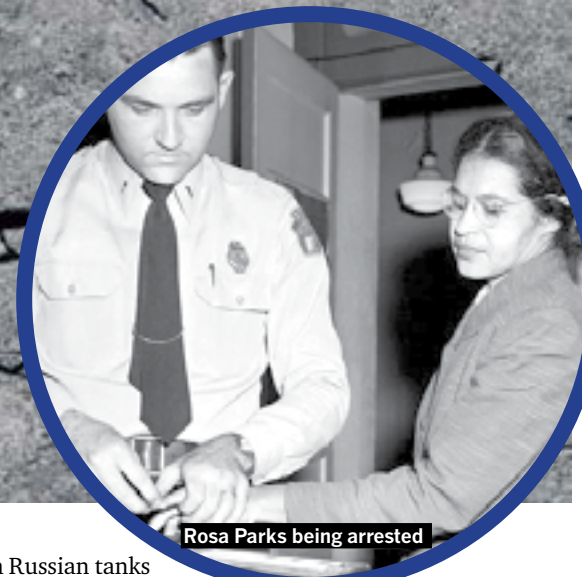
Hungary 1956



Stranded Egyptian tank



Fleeing Russian tanks



Rosa Parks being arrested



On the road to independence in Tunisia



Protesting in Poland



Martin Luther King Arrested



Anti war protest in London

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER }
PUBLIC MEETINGS

NORWICH

Marxism and Women's Liberation

With author Judith Orr.
Thu 21 Jan, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

{ SOCIALIST WORKER }
BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Capitalism vs the climate—how do we stop environmental disaster?

Thu 21 Jan, 6pm,
Belmont Filmhouse,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BARNSELEY

Marxism and Women's Liberation

With author Judith Orr.
Wed 20 Jan, 6.30pm,
YMCA, Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

The Prevent Strategy—institutional Islamophobia

Wed 20 Jan, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

The Holocaust—why we say never again

Thu 21 Jan, 6.30pm,
Bolton Socialist Club, 16 Wood St (off Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

A socialist history of the Labour Party

Wed 20 Jan, 7pm,
Equity Centre, Perkin House,
82 Grattan Rd, BD12 1LU

BRIGHTON

The privatisation of war

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

BRISTOL: SOUTH

Is Bernie Sanders the US's Jeremy Corbyn?

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

CHELMSFORD

Human nature—are we too selfish for socialism?

Thu 21 Jan, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd, CM1 2QL

CHESTERFIELD

An eyewitness report—Greek workers fighting back

Thu 21 Jan, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

DUNDEE

Imperialism today

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

BRISTOL: NORTH

Thu 21 Jan, 7.30pm,
5th Floor,
The Canteen,
Hamilton House,
80 Stokes Croft,
BS1 3QY

DONCASTER

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
Women's Centre,
21 Cleveland St,
DN1 3EH

LONDON: BRIXTON

Wed 20 Jan, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd
(near Effra Rd, facing Windrush Square),
SW2 1EP

LONDON: CAMDEN

Thu 21 Jan, 7pm,
Theatro Technis,
26 Crowndale Rd,
NW1 1TT

EXETER

Prospects for socialists in 2016

Thu 21 Jan, 7pm,
New Horizon Cafe,
47 Longbrook St,
EX4 6AW

GLASGOW: NORTH

Fighting the Prevent Strategy and Islamophobia

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
Posh Nosh Cafe,
86 Maryhill Rd, G20 7QB

HUDDERSFIELD

Jeremy Corbyn, Labour and the fight for socialism

Wed 20 Jan, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

The fight for the NHS

Thu 21 Jan, 7.30pm,
The Pepperpot Centre,
1a Thorpe Close,
Ladbroke Grove (very close to the station),
W10 5XL

LONDON: EALING

The class struggle in Greece today

Thu 21 Jan, 7.30pm,
West London Trade Union Club,
33-35 Acton High St,
W3 6ND

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd (near Greenwich main line and DLR Station),
SE10 8JA

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),
E17 4QU

MEDWAY

Thu 28 Jan, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre (Conference Room),
272 High St,
ME4 4BP

PORTSMOUTH

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
Somerstown Central,
Rivers St, P05 4EY

LONDON: HACKNEY

Imperialism today

Thu 21 Jan, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON: ISLINGTON

One year of Syriza in Greece

Wed 20 Jan, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St,
N7 6QT

LONDON: TOTTENHAM

As police get ever greater powers—what do socialists say?

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
Kitabevi Cafe,
410 Tottenham High Rd,
N17 9JB

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

Capitalism vs the climate—how do we stop environmental disaster?

Thu 21 Jan, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT

Who are Isis?

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
Food Factory,
884 Stockport Rd,
Levenshulme, M19 3BN

SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS

The rise of the Nazi Front National in France—how can it be stopped?



Front National leader Marine Le Pen has used Islamophobia to win support

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Thu 21 Jan, 7.30pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

WIGAN

Wed 20 Jan, 7pm,
Little Fifteen pub,
17-19 Wallgate
(opposite Wigan Post Office),
WN1 1LD

YORK

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

NEWCASTLE

The Holocaust—why we say never again

Thu 21 Jan, 7pm,
Broadacre House,
Market St,
NE1 6HQ

NOTTINGHAM

An introduction to Marxist economics

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
International Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

OXFORD

What is imperialism?

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
Restore,
Manzil Way
(off Cowley Rd),
OX4 1YH

POOLE

Stop bombing Syria—why we say no to war and imperialism

Mon 18 Jan, 7.30pm,
The Blue Boar,
29 Market Close,
BH15 1NE

SWANSEA

Why is austerity continuing?

Thu 21 Jan, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

TELFORD

Prospects for socialists in 2016

Thu 21 Jan, 7.30pm,
Carriages,
The Parade,
Wellington,
TF1 1PY

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Trident—what do socialists say?

Wed 20 Jan, 7.30pm,
Grain Store,
King St,
WV1 1ST

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

BIRMINGHAM

Stand Up to the Tories—Stand Up for Democracy in Unison

Sat 16 Jan, 1.30-5pm,
Carrs Lane Conference Centre,
Carrs Lane,
B4 7SX.

Open to all Unison members

DORCHESTER

Can Corbynomials work?

Sat 16 Jan, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club,
Colliton Park,
DT1 1XJ.

Organised by Dorset Socialists

LONDON

A Very Capitalist Condition—a history and politics of disability

Book launch with author Roddy Slorach.
Tue 26 Jan, 7pm,
Unite the Union,
128 Theobalds Rd,
WC1X 8TN.

To reserve a place email info@bookmarks.co.uk

NATIONAL

Unite Against Fascism national conference

Sat 6 Feb, 9.30am,
NUT HQ, Hamilton House,
Mableton Place,
central London,
WC1H 9BD.

The conference discussions include tackling Islamophobia and antisemitism, and building solidarity with refugees.

Supported by the NUT and CWU unions and Stand Up To Racism

Trade Unionists 4 Calais: Refugee Solidarity Initiative

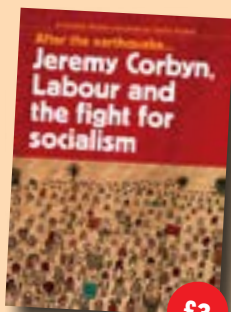
Fri 12 – Sun 21 Feb,
More information on how you can get involved is available at standuptoracism.org.uk

Stop Trident—march and rally

Sat 27 Feb, 12 noon,
central London meeting point, with march to Trafalgar Square.
Called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.
cnduk.org
Marxism festival 2016
Thu 30 June – Mon 4 July,
central London
marxismfestival.org.uk

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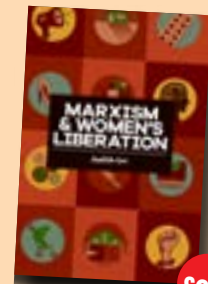
Charlie Kimber looks at the roots of Corbyn's triumph, puts it in the context of Labour's history over the last hundred years and examines the potential for further successes—and the obstacles in Corbyn's path



£12.99

Roddy Slorach describes how capitalist society marginalises disabled people

Judith Orr steers a path through the history and future of the fight for Women's Liberation



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Will new TV show Jericho do the navvies' story justice?

ITV's new series tries a bit too hard to make sure you know it's set in t' North—but the true story behind it means there's still hope, says **Simon Basketter**

A NEW series, *Jericho*, is ITV's replacement for *Downton Abbey*. Set in the 1870s, the action centres on an isolated shanty town in one of the Yorkshire moors' valleys.

Thousands of navvies arrived to build the Settle to Carlisle Railway Line and the Ribbleshead Viaduct.

Navvies got their name as manual workers building the never ending navigations that were the canals.

The shanty town is overlooked by the viaduct its inhabitants have come to work on. The real-life *Jericho* consisted of two lines of huts and a pub in a rock-roofed hole.

Some 6,000 workers spent seven years building the section of the line shown in the series. No one knows for sure how many died in the process.

The church at the nearby Chapel-le-Dale had conducted an average of three burials a year until construction on the line began. Between May 1870 and May 1878, 247 bodies were interred.

In the 1840s starvation in Ireland and Britain pushed people to work on the lines. A third of navvies were Irish.

Displaced

In the 1870s, farmers displaced from the line and soldiers returning from imperialist wars swelled the ranks of roaming workers.

The experience forged the shape of the British working class. Divide and rule was used to try and undercut wages.

From the 1850s there were repeated attempts to organise unions.

By the end of the century the Navvies', Bricklayers' Labourers' and General Labourers' Union argued, "The Class War leaves no room for invidious distinctions, craft jealousies, or unorganised forces."

"The workers of each and every



A WESTERN theme runs through the show

occupation must combine or starve." The workers of *Jericho* haven't got organised yet.

But in one refreshing move for a costume drama, *Jericho* has black actors in it. Ralph Coates (Clarke Peters) is the new American foreman. The character is based on a real navvy, a man called Six-fingered Jack.

The eight-part serial is photographed with an epic eye. It emphasises the emptiness of the land.

A good Western theme fills that land, with men and women inventing and enforcing their own rules.

And the Wild West/Yorkshire conceit is fine—the problem may be the curse of the bad Western stereotypes. *Jericho* is in its early stage but there is little nuance in the characters.

We were introduced to—the proper widow, the decent chancer, the benevolent drunk, the evil drunk, the madam with a heart.

We were simpler folk 150 years

ago apparently. There was a bit too much of every sentence starting "reckon", to remind you it was in t'north. And building a Victorian viaduct is a remarkably clean affair.

But the story of those who built the infrastructure of Britain is worth telling. Whether *Jericho* will do their story justice is so far unclear.

Jericho
ITV 1
9pm, Thursdays

Celtic Connections festival celebrates Easter Rising

EVENT

CELTIC CONNECTIONS FESTIVALS

Multiple venues throughout Glasgow
14 until 31 January
celticconnections.com

THERE'S A fascinating line-up to look forward to at this year's Celtic Connections, an annual music festival held in Glasgow.

This year marks 100 years since the Easter

Rising in Dublin, a revolt against British imperial rule in Ireland.

Celtic Connections have teamed up with Aye Wight, Glasgow's book festival, to mark the anniversary.

On Friday of this week, authors Willy Maley, Kevin McKenna and Maria Dick will look at the significance of the rising for Scotland.

Among others their work looks at the socialist James Connolly, one of the leaders of 1916, who was

born in Edinburgh.

On the same night the Irish folk band The Chieftains will headline a gig celebrating the rising. And they'll be joined on stage by former Dubliners fiddler John Sheahan and balladeer Declan O'Rourke.

There are plenty of performances for a range of music fans—from Afro Celt Sound System's electronic hip hop fusion to folk and blues.

Thanks to Jimmy Ross



Afro Celt Sound System will be performing at Celtic Connections

EXHIBITION

WOMEN, WORK AND WAR

Leeds Industrial Museum
Leeds LS12 2QF.
Until 24 September 2017.
leeds.gov.uk

AS MILLIONS died in the trenches of the Western Front, thousands of women were pushed into the workforce in Britain.

This exhibition looks at the role women played in the First World War—particularly in Leeds—and the impact it had on their lives.

FILM

THE HATEFUL EIGHT

Directed by Quentin Tarantino.
The Weinstein Company.
Out now

THIS IS director Quentin Tarantino's follow up to 2012 revenge fantasy *Django Unchained*.

His latest film takes place



The Hateful Eight is a bounty hunter murder story

just after the US Civil War and tells the story of bounty hunters caught up in a murder plot.

Read Socialist Worker's review of *Django Unchained* at tinyurl.com/p8s522w

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- 1 **A Very Capitalist Condition: A history and politics of disability**
Roddy Slorach
- 2 **Bob Marley: Roots, Reggae & Revolution**
Brian Richardson
- 3 **Marxism and Women's Liberation**
Judith Orr
- 4 **The Rise of Islamic State: ISIS and the New Sunni Revolution**
Patrick Cockburn
- 5 **Seventeen Contradictions and the End of Capitalism**
David Harvey

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DISABILITY discrimination is not natural and we can have a world without it. That's the conclusion of a fascinating new book, *A Very Capitalist Condition—a history and politics of disability*, by Roddy Slorach.

The book uses evidence spanning centuries from across the globe to look at how people with impairments are treated has changed over time.

It assesses political movements that have fought for disabled people's rights and looks at controversial issues such as assisted dying.

Crucially it shows how disability and attitudes towards it are linked to material factors—and explains why disability discrimination arose with capitalism.

Disability and impairment are often seen as the same thing. But the “social model of disability” shows how societies disable people who have impairments by refusing to properly meet their needs.

Roddy points out that governments with no interest in improving disabled people's lives have tried to co-opt it.

However, it remains a powerful “political tool” because it points towards changing society.

Roddy argues that “disability” emerged out of “class society in general and capitalist society in particular”.

Discrimination

And “an increasing body of research strongly suggests” that discrimination against disabled people “did not exist” before class society.

Remains of the earliest humans indicate that people with serious diseases survived into adulthood with care from others.

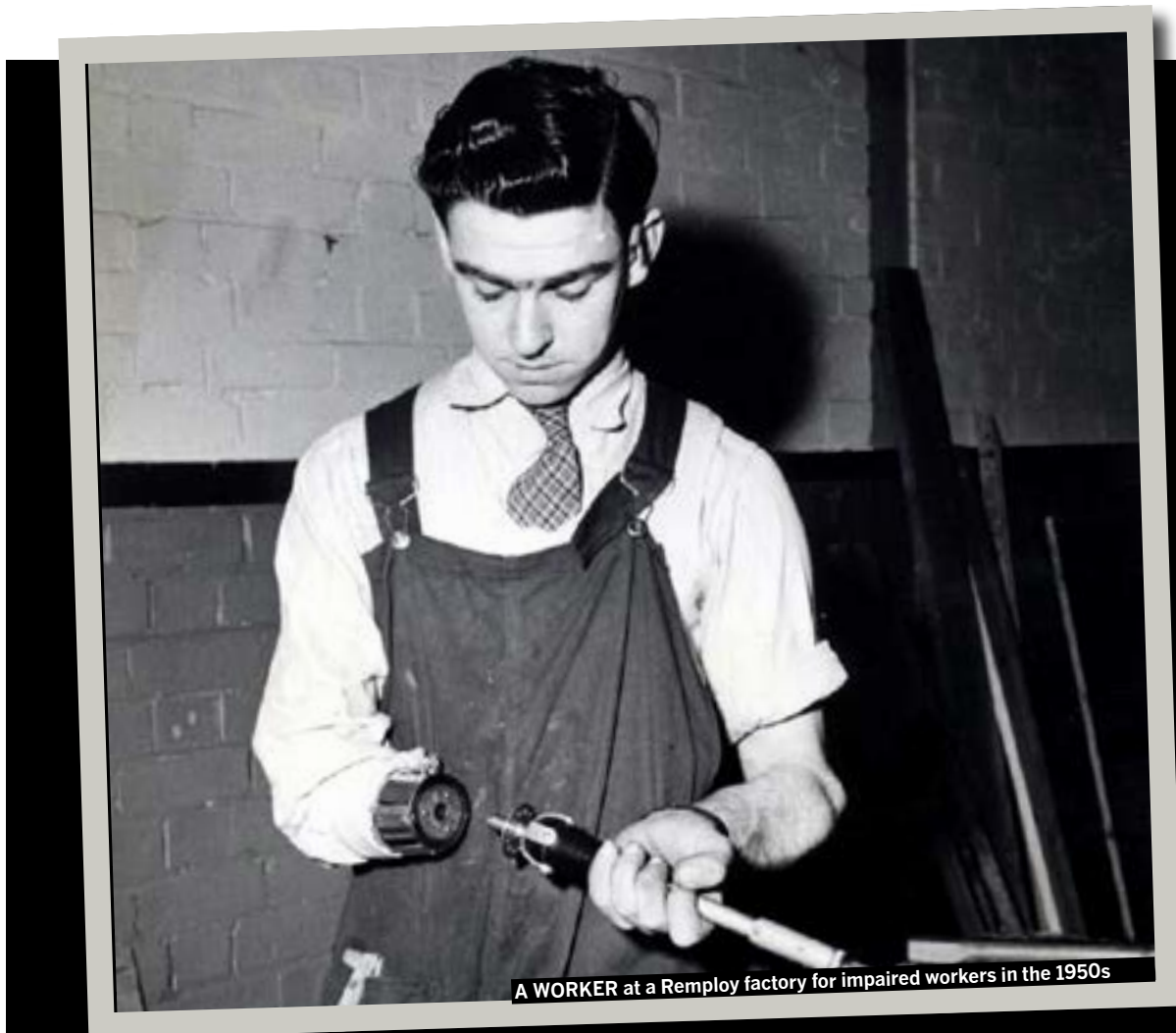
The remains of a female Homo ergaster—the first human-like species—found in Kenya were dated to around 1.5 million years ago. They suggested the female had hypervitaminosis A, an extremely debilitating disease.

Roddy wrote, “Living as she did in the African savannah, she must have been fed by others who also protected her from carnivores.”

Archaeology researchers Spikins, Rutherford and Needham found, “The remains of many Neanderthal individuals also show evidence for long term care.”

Roddy explains that in the earliest human societies, made up of around 30 to 40 people who lived off the land, “all group members had a role”. “People with impairments were not marginalised or excluded,” he adds.

Some argue that the roots of disabled people's oppression lie in Ancient Greece and Rome. Impairment in these societies was common—one study found that ten percent of all Ancient Greek skeletons had at least



A WORKER at a Remploy factory for impaired workers in the 1950s

DISABILITY: PRODUCED BY PROFITS

Roddy Slorach's new book *A Very Capitalist Condition* puts forward a Marxist analysis of disability. **Sadie Robinson** looks at how its insights can help activists in the fightback



Roddy Slorach

one bone fracture.

But there was “no concept of disability”. Julius Caesar, an epileptic, became the Roman dictator. Claudius later became a Roman emperor despite severe physical impairments.

And Ancient Greek culture “provides scattered accounts of people with different impairments involved in a wide range of economic activities, with no indication that this was seen as unusual”.

Neither is there any evidence



There was no concept of disability in either Ancient Greece or Rome

of “any specific, systematic discrimination” towards disabled people in feudal societies.

Under feudalism “the rural production process and the extended nature of the family” enabled many people with impairments to work.

Roddy writes, “The origins of disability as a form of discrimination lie in the social and economic changes of the late feudal period.”

Economic crisis in the 14th century signalled the

beginning of a massive transformation. The growth of capitalism brought the Industrial Revolution.

Roddy says this “crystallised the rise of an entirely new type of labour, which led to the rise of disability as a specific form of oppression”.

It became harder for people with impairments to play an economic role in the new factories. They came to be seen more as a burden.

Capitalism “leads to the exclusion of impaired people from work” because capitalists see them as “potentially ‘wasted’ investment”.

The book also stresses the importance of alienation. Marx wrote that alienation results from workers’ lack of control over production.

They become alienated from their own human nature and from each other.

This is a “key factor” giving rise to mental distress. It follows that “the prospect of and the struggle for social change can also put an end to a lot of that distress”.

Roddy quotes Philippe Pinel, a clinician during the French Revolution. He wrote in 1790, “I feel better since the revolution” has been said by many people.”

DURING THE First World War news of revolution swept Germany. Author **Ben Shephard** described how “many neurotic patients suddenly shed their symptoms and became revolutionary leaders”.

The book stresses the huge impact of social problems on health and warns that the drugs industry “medicalises problems that are social”.

The British Psychological Society (BPS) noted that one review found up to three quarters of psychiatric inpatients had suffered childhood abuse.

The book points out that “common causes of mental distress include unemployment, domestic violence, housing problems, homelessness and discrimination”. Poor people are more likely to suffer health problems than the rich.

As the BPS put it, “The most effective way to reduce rates of ‘psychosis’ might be to reduce inequality in society.”

The “huge increases” in mental health drug sales bear little relation to their success. But they follow a long history of attempts to “control” people deemed sick.

The book details how disabled people have been given brutal treatments, shut away in institutions or sterilised.

From the 19th century the ideas of the new capitalist class—such as a reverence for science—were used to justify such treatments.

Ideas about genetics and intelligence targeted people with impairments as inferior.

Sometimes panics about

“madness” overlapped with fear of the working class—eugenics supporters were characterised by a “deep fear of the lower classes”.

Changes in society repeatedly shifted attitudes. For instance, disabled people dismissed as unfit for work were quickly called up to help the war effort in 1914.

The injuries and “shell shock” suffered by many who fought in the First World War undermined the idea that such problems only affected a tiny, alien minority.

Reminder

But disabled veterans found themselves in a contradictory position. They were “lionised as heroes to glorify war, yet hidden away as a reminder of its reality”.

Disabled people's oppression has sparked numerous political movements. Roddy details their achievements and describes the debates that took place over how to organise.

Some activists argued that “able-bodied society” is the problem and that disabled people have separate interests.

Some deaf people say they are not disabled but have a separate culture as an oppressed linguistic minority.

Roddy argues that such separatism “expresses the approach of a new layer of middle class deaf professionals who have rejected wider social change in favour of a deaf ‘lifestyle’”.

Instead he argues for unity. Roddy says there's been a revival in disability activism in Britain but its forces remain “tiny”. Disabled people can't stop attacks “without being part of a more powerful force”.

Disabled people face many contradictions. Many activists rightly campaign for independent living and more choice and control in their lives.

Yet politicians use similar rhetoric to justify cuts and privatisation.

Some people don't want their disabled child to be segregated in a specialist school. But often their child will have no support in a mainstream school.

Huge debates have raged over whether to support assisted suicide. Roddy says that few people “would not support an individual's right to an assisted suicide”.

But he also condemns a system that “undermines” people's will to live. Two people with the same impairment can



PICTURE: GUY SHALWAN



Disabled People Against the Cuts holds a protest outside the Department for Work and Pensions in 2013 (top) Sign language—are deaf people a linguistic minority? (bottom)

live massively different lives. As the book points out, “Personal choice is not equally available across society.”

The book develops a Marxist understanding of disability—not for the sake of abstract argument but to help people fighting back.

Roddy told Socialist Worker, “This book is an attempt to break out of the ghetto that disability has existed in for decades. I think of this as the last civil rights issue.”

“The message of the book is that disability is not about someone else.

“And disabled people have a lot of disadvantages when it comes to fighting back for themselves.

“We need to break down divisions between disabled people and others.”

A VERY CAPITALIST CONDITION

A history and politics of disability

by RODDY SLORACH

Available for £12.99 at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop
Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



COMMENT

Does the left only represent a ‘north London clique’?

Nick Clark takes issue with Labour right wingers’ simplistic and patronising view of what it means to be working class



JEREMY CORBYN—has he really no friends in the north?

BACK STORY

Labour's shadow cabinet reshuffle last week ruffled some feathers

●Leader Jeremy Corbyn got rid of some right wingers and a few more resigned

●Some opponents claimed “traditional working class Labour is dying” as a result

●Corbyn was right to get rid of them but could have gone further

●But it is struggle outside parliament that can take out the Tories

thing workers all have in common is their exploitation by a ruling class at the top of society.

Bosses profit from the work we do in the good times—and we're made to pay for their crises in the bad.

Representing workers politically, whether in a London borough or a Yorkshire town, means organising to challenge this.

Represent

The Labour Party has a very different idea of what it means to represent workers.

It tries to appeal to both left and right wing views in order to win elections. And it seeks to do this by lumping the interests of bosses and workers together.

That's why the Labour Party can end up as divided as it is now.

It involves people like Jeremy Corbyn, who wants to represent the aspirations of everyone who is opposed to war, austerity and racism.

It also has plenty of MPs under the illusion of a shared “national interest” between bosses and workers, so want to represent right wing views.

Far from being isolated from the working class, Corbyn's leadership can help to strengthen workers' resistance to the Tories.

Compromising with MPs like Dugher can only hold this back—which is why Corbyn was right to get rid of him.

But ultimately only organising to build workers' own dynamic struggles can get real advances for the working class.



Representing workers means organising to challenge class rule

Did cops help abusers?

by SADIE ROBINSON

A CHILD sexual exploitation trial has heard that police passed information to abusers in South Yorkshire.

The seven defendants—five men and two women—deny over 60 charges between them.

The offences are alleged to have taken place between the late 1980s and 2003.

Girl D, a complainant, gave evidence to the Sheffield court last week. It heard that she was abused by Arshid and Basharat Hussain from 1997 when she was 14 years old living in Rotherham.

Girl D said they forced her to handle guns and drugs, and drove her and her sister to Sheffield to be prostituted.

She said she hadn't been confident to report the abuse. She said, "How could I go to a police officer when they are just more involved with it, with them? The police basically gave them a free card to do what they wanted."

"How could us women go to police officers and tell them these things when they are going straight back to tell them? You couldn't."



A street in Rotherham, South Yorkshire

Girl D told the court she had denied knowing Arshid and Basharat Hussain when police first approached her in 2014 because she was "scared". Cross examined by Tahir Khan QC representing Arshid Hussain she was asked why she had refused to speak.

"I have been threatened to do my kneecaps in," she said. "My life was in jeopardy. My life wouldn't have been worth living. They were threatening me, my mum, my family."

Threatened

The court also heard that Girl D was threatened with a gun in 2014 and told not to talk to police. A police interview with her in March last year was shown to the court. In it the woman said she was approached by a man in a car in Masbrough.

She said, "He pulled me into a car, put a gun in my mouth and said, 'police have contacted you haven't they about Ash, Bash and Bono?'"

"Open your mouth and this is what you get."

Khan asked why she hadn't mentioned being prostituted in Sheffield until her second police interview. She said, "I really didn't want to remember all the bad things. They were awful memories. I wasn't a

person—I was a piece of meat and I didn't want to remember that."

The mother of alleged victim Girl B gave evidence on Monday.

Girl B has told the jury that she was abused for about a decade from the age of 11 when she was living in Rotherham.

The mother said she found an exercise book in her daughter's bedroom detailing the abuse. "It was very explicit," she told the court. "I just couldn't believe it."

"I took it to the police and I told them to look at it, but they just gave it back to me."

The mother said she tried to get help when her daughter went missing. "I phoned the police, but to tell you the truth they were not interested," she said. "I never got any help whatsoever."

The witness said that her daughter felt she had no choice but to go out when an older girl called Shelley came to collect her. The witness told the court, "She used to say, 'I have got to go Mam, you don't know what will happen if I don't go.'"

Her mother told the court Girl B said their house would be burned down if she refused to go out with the alleged abusers.

The trial continues.

HILLSBOROUGH

The final evidence at inquest

INQUESTS INTO the deaths of 96 Liverpool football fans who died as a result of the Hillsborough football disaster finished hearing evidence on Tuesday of last week.

The fans died after being crushed at the Sheffield stadium in April 1989.

Fresh inquests began into their deaths in March 2014 after the verdicts in the original inquests were quashed.

After 267 days the inquests are the longest running in British legal history.

The inquests heard evidence relating to signs of life among victims on the last day of evidence.

Coroner Sir John Goldring is expected to begin summing up the case on 25 January.

The summing up is expected to take three weeks.

Read more from the final day of hearing evidence and in our Hillsborough archive at socialistworker.co.uk

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'Tories are using housing as a weapon in their class war'

Social housing tenants could be forced out of their homes as a new bill is set to become law. **Dave Sewell** examines its effects—and meets some of the campaigners who are fighting back

THE TORIES are presenting their new Housing and Planning Bill as a way to help more people find homes. Its real effect will be to make the housing crisis worse.

The bill is currently going through its final stages in parliament.

It contains a wave of attacks on council housing and housing associations that could transform our towns and cities after it takes effect next year (see right). Tenants will be pushed out, homes sold off, and private developers given more powers to grab valuable land for profit.

The bill will also make it harder for Travellers to get planning permission for sites.

Simon Elmer from the campaign Architects for Social Housing told Socialist Worker, "The bill is a social engineering programme that has zero to do with building homes. It's using housing as a weapon in class war."

"It is explicitly designed to drive people not just out of their homes but in particular out of London."

Valuable

"They want the land—it's some of the most valuable in the world. And they want to take back London, getting rid of the people who make it a Labour heartland."

So far the bill has received relatively little coverage in the media.

But Simon said, "There's a lot of people affected by the bill but they don't know about it."

"In London there are around 3,500 housing estates with 350,000 homes and an average of three people per home. So that's a million people living on a knife edge. There are another three million across England."

"And it's not just about them. This will drive people into already



PROTESTING AGAINST the Housing Bill last week

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

overheated rental markets. Rents will go up for all renters. It is designed to create slum conditions."

The rhetoric from the Tories is that the bill will get people out of "Generation Rent" and into "Generation Buy".

Simon argued, "It's a false justification. People often do want to buy their own homes because they are sick of the insecurity of the rental market."

"The way to give people security is

through council housing.

"But the homes they want to build aren't affordable for what the Tories call 'hard working families', only to investors. They want to build commodities—whether people live in them is irrelevant. They are deposit boxes in the sky."

Simon added, "When they call it a 'housing crisis' it suggests something that's out of control. In fact this is something that's under control and

is enormously benefitting some very rich people."

Simon believes there is "one glimmer of hope", however. "Everyone needs a home. This is a unifying bill—it affects such a wide range of people. The task is to mobilise those people."

"The housing movement and trade unions have to build resistance on the estates. This could be far more destructive than the poll tax, we have to turn it into a victory for us like the poll tax."

The bill will....

●**FORCE** councils to sell off "high value" housing. In London this applies to a huge amount of existing housing.

●**PHASE** out secure tenancies and replace them with tenancies lasting as little as two years. This move will also hit the children of tenants who die and any tenants whose estates undergo redevelopment.

●**MAKE** tenants "Pay to Stay". So-called "high income" tenants will be charged higher market rents.

These are those with a total household income over £30,000 in England and £40,000 in London.

Even very low paid workers and many benefit claimants would be hit.

●**EXTEND** the Right to Buy to housing association homes. There is no plan to replace homes sold.

●**GRANT** planning permission for any redevelopments on "brownfield land".

The Tories now include housing estates in this category, which previously referred to former industrial and commercial land.

●**SCRAP** bosses' obligation to build some homes at lower "social rent" in every new development.

Instead they will have to build discounted "starter homes" for sale at up to £450,000 in Greater London and £250,000 across the rest of England. But to afford a £250,000 home would require a household income of at least £60,000 a year.

Campaigners prepare for national March for Homes

RESISTANCE TO the bill is growing, in an alliance that stretches from grassroots campaigners to large parts of the Labour Party.

Some 200 people attended a protest outside parliament on Tuesday of last week, followed by a meeting inside hosted by Defend Council Housing (DCH).

In Camden, central London, the Labour council opposes the bill.

It is set to call a summit to coordinate campaigning next month.

Liz Wheatley is a Unison

union rep in housing and a council tenant in Camden.

She told Socialist Worker, "If there isn't a big campaign people could panic and put in for a Right to Buy rather than pay higher rents."

Other initiatives have already been called, including a national March for Homes in London on Saturday 16 April.

A similar summit for Yorkshire has been planned in Leeds and campaigners in south London plan to march on 30 January.

Eileen Short from DCH



On the March for Homes last year in London

is helping to organise the national demo.

She told Socialist Worker, "The aim is to build a confident, determined opposition."

"We need to build the biggest possible unity to defy it."

Beating the bill will take a much bigger campaign than currently exists right now.

But Liz explained there is potential to do just that.

She said, "Housing is something the Tories are potentially weak on as people become aware of these attacks."

IN BRIEF

Housing workers strike in Sheffield

HOUSING WORKERS in Sheffield struck against bosses' attacks on their terms and conditions on Wednesday of last week.

The GMB union members have been on a work to rule since December. Bosses at Labour-run Sheffield City Council are pushing through a restructuring plan.

Activists to stage McDonald's protest

ACTIVISTS IN the Fast Food Rights campaign were set to protest in central London on Wednesday of this week.

The action comes as fast food workers from the US visit Brussels in Belgium to campaign against McDonald's.

Protesters in London were set to demonstrate outside McDonald's on Whitehall.

Trinity Mirror strike vote gets results

NUJ UNION members have forced newspaper publisher Trinity Mirror to abandon plans to introduce new targets.

Bosses wanted journalists to meet "goals" aimed at increasing the number of hits on online articles. They scrapped the plans after journalists at five regional newspapers voted to strike.

Kurds occupy Tory HQ over curfews

KURDISH protesters occupied the Tory campaign headquarters in London on Tuesday of last week for several hours.

They chanted, "Wake up Cameron" demanding that Britain halts its backing for the Turkish government. Turkish troops have imposed at least 58 curfews in Kurdish regions since August.

Flashmob protest over bank closures

AROUND 500 people attended a flashmob protest in Glastonbury, Somerset, last Saturday.

It was against plans to close the last two of the town's bank branches.

It would mean the nearest cash machine was at a supermarket out of town.

Fight steel bosses for Port Talbot jobs

UNIONS WERE set to meet Tata Steel bosses this week about reports of massive job losses at Port Talbot steel works in South Wales.

Alan Coombs of the Community union said the unions would consider accepting "loads of cost cutting" for the "survival of the industry".

Stopping the jobs massacre will mean fighting bosses, not helping them.

EDF WORKERS

Five-day strike hits bosses

UP TO 50 pickets turned away cars from EDF Energy's head office on Monday of this week, as around 70 Unite union members began a five-day strike.

There was an enthusiastic atmosphere on the picket line in Bexleyheath, Kent, and workers all wanted to keep up the action.

Workers also struck in Canning Town, east London.

The workers install Smart

meters. They are in dispute over issues including a new "telematic" system for recording workers' daily movements. Unite says it will be used for bullying and to justify sackings.

Regional officer Onay Kasab said talks at Acas had broken down after being "sabotaged by a pig-headed management".

Thanks to Lynne Chamberlain



EDF WORKERS on strike in Bexleyheath, Kent, last September

PICTURE: JULIE SHERRY

TUBE WORKERS



TUBE WORKERS on strike in east London last year

PICTURE: ALAN KENNY

London Tube unions announce new strikes

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

TUBE UNIONS have called fresh walkouts on London Underground in their long-running dispute over Night Tube and pay.

Workers in the Aslef, RMT and Unite unions are set to strike for 24 hours on 26 January, coinciding with a 48-hour walkout by junior

doctors in England.

The action begins at 6.30pm. Further strikes are set for February.

United walkouts by all four Tube unions last year delayed the introduction of Night Tube.

Unions called the action this year in response to bosses' refusal to engage in talks for the last two months.

The fresh strikes can build

on the unity of Tube workers.

Aslef Tube driver Unjum Mirza said, "The key thing about this strike is we are out with the junior doctors."

"The NHS is about social solidarity across society—now we're going to express it in the workplaces."

"It's time to get ourselves organised to deliver that solidarity."

JUSTICE ALLIANCE

'Uplifting' rally to kickstart legal aid fight

by MADELEINE CORR

THE JUSTICE Alliance's "Voices for Justice" rally held in Conway Hall in central London last week was a statement of intent.

The rally was sold out, attracting more than 400 people with a shared determination to fight injustice and save legal aid.

There were many rousing speakers. Marcia Rigg said legal aid was vital to securing an inquest into her brother's death in police custody.

Community worker and poet Awate Suleiman rapped about his experiences of police harassment and the need for legal aid.

Helen Steel said legal aid meant she could sue the Metropolitan Police after she was deceived into a long-term relationship with an undercover police officer.

Shami Chakrabarti from Liberty described the cuts to legal aid as "ideological and spiteful".

Criminal barrister Helena Kennedy QC also spoke. She argued that "the idea that asylum seekers and

victims of domestic violence should be represented by lawyers in their spare time is disgusting".

Pat Kavanagh from the Unite union and Ian Lawrence, general secretary of the Napo union, talked about the importance of solidarity across the legal sector.

The rally culminated in Jeremy Corbyn MP declaring legal aid a basic human right, which he will continue to support and defend.

It was an uplifting and exciting rally intending to kickstart a year of action.

BIN WORKERS

Refuse workers in Somerset back five weeks of walkouts

by DAVE SEWELL

RECYCLING refuse collectors in Somerset voted for five more weeks of discontinuous strikes for pay on Thursday of last week.

The Unite union members walked out in late December.

They disrupted collections of food waste and recycling that Bath and North East Somerset council has yet to

catch up on.

They are demanding a "substantial" pay rise from bosses Kier Ltd.

Workers rejected an offer of three percent pointing out that they are paid 25 percent less than Kier employees in Bristol, just a few miles away. The strikes were set to take place on Thursday and Friday of this week and each of the coming weeks.

OIL WORKERS

Offshore workers prepare to challenge ballot result

UNITE UNION members working under the Offshore Contractors Association (OCA) agreement voted to accept bosses' latest offer in a consultative ballot last week.

But the wafer thin majority of 50.31 percent shows that many members want a better deal.

Unite recommended acceptance of the deal. Offshore union activist

Harry described it as "a watered down version of a shit deal that was already rejected because it worsened terms and conditions".

He added, "People are going to work an extra week a year offshore for no extra money and have to spend the time away from their families."

Some workers are preparing to challenge the

result as they believe Unite balloted people not covered by the OCA agreement.

They are also angry at being reballoted on deals that in essence they have already thrown out.

Workers have faced an onslaught from oil bosses over the past two years.

Bosses have used the excuse of low oil prices to drive through attacks on terms and conditions.

Workers fear the longer shift patterns being imposed and irregular maintenance work is creating increasingly dangerous conditions for offshore workers.

A gas blast on the Brae Alpha platform at the end of last year underlined how serious this is for offshore workers and it was only due to luck that it did not lead to disaster.

POST WORKERS

Cut is 'postponed' in Leeds

by NICK CLARK

POST OFFICE supply chain workers in Leeds have forced bosses onto the back foot after two 24-hour walkouts.

The CWU union members are fighting plans to shut a distribution centre. Bosses had planned to close the site by the end of this month.

But after workers struck on 24 December and on Monday of last week, bosses postponed the closure until 5 April to negotiate with the CWU.

The closure could see some workers lose their jobs and others relocated. CWU assistant secretary Andy Furey said the union would "continue to robustly oppose this closure".

EDUCATION

Teachers furious as rep Simon O'Hara suspended

by SADIE ROBINSON

TEACHERS AT Small Heath school in Birmingham have voted to escalate their anti-academy strikes following the victimisation of NUT union rep Simon O'Hara.

Management suspended Simon on Thursday of last week. He faces allegations of gross misconduct but the exact charges remain unclear.

Many workers and union members see his suspension as an attempt to undermine resistance at the school.

One teacher at the school told Socialist Worker, "People were initially shocked. Since then people have been angry."

"All Simon was doing was representing teachers' views. We feel we have to do something to defend him."

NUT members at the school met on Monday of this week. They unanimously backed escalating strikes in an ongoing dispute to stop the school becoming an academy.

Attack

One teacher told Socialist Worker, "The attack on Simon is an attack on the NUT and on all of us."

Simon has opposed unreasonable management practices and helped lead a battle against the school



SMALL HEATH school staff on strike last summer

PICTURE: SIMON O'HARA

converting to academy status. Teachers in the NUT, NASUWT and ATL unions have struck for five days over this issue so far.

Two days before Simon was suspended NUT members had agreed to another four strike days.

Bosses want to break the action and hope that targeting Simon can help them do that.

Kevin Courtney is deputy

general secretary of the NUT. He told Socialist Worker, "Simon is a dedicated teacher and a longstanding NUT rep."

"He has been leading official strike action at his school over proposals for it to become an academy."

"Management suspended him in what we can only see as an act of trade union victimisation. It's vital that all teachers and all trade unionists get behind the campaign

to get Simon reinstated."

Simon quickly won widespread support. Over 1,600 people signed a petition demanding his reinstatement within four days of suspension.

Longstanding local campaigner Salma Yaqoob said Simon has been a "valuable asset to the school, loved and respected by pupils and parents alike".

Support staff at Small

Heath school have said they also want to take action following the suspension.

One teacher said, "I've been surprised by how passionate a lot of the staff are about this."

"Simon has got a lot of support. He's got a good reputation in the school, he's professional and he's got a good relationship with the children."

Desperate

Birmingham NUT secretary David Room said Simon's suspension was a "desperate attempt" to break teachers' resolve. It has failed.

Doug Morgan is president of Birmingham NUT. He told Socialist Worker, "The attack on Simon has made teachers more committed."

"NUT members are clear that they are prepared to take action to defend Simon and to continue their campaign against academisation."

As one Small Heath teacher said, "They've underestimated people. We're now doubly angry with the management."

"If they can do this to Simon, they can do this to anybody—so we need to win."

●Sign the petition to demand Simon's reinstatement at chn.ge/1PnBgs1

LINCOLNSHIRE

Ballot at Spalding Grammar

TEACHERS AT Spalding Grammar school in Lincolnshire are balloting for strikes over pay.

The School Teachers' Pay and Review Body has recommended a 1 percent pay rise for teachers.

Workers say Spalding Grammar school is the only school in Lincolnshire to deny teachers the rise.

The ballot involves NUT union members and teachers could stage a series of strikes next month.

An indicative ballot saw over 93 percent back strikes on a fantastic 100 percent turnout.

JOHN CABOT ACADEMY

Strike is off after workers win demands

A STRIKE at John Cabot academy in Kingswood, South Gloucestershire, planned for Tuesday of this week, was called off after workers won all of their demands.

The NASUWT union members had been in dispute over a range of attacks on conditions, such as unannounced lesson observations.

Wendy Exton, from the NASUWT said they were like a "mini-Ofsted every time".

Workers had planned a two-day strike and a three-day strike later this month.

ISLAMOPHOBIA

>>>continued from page 20

organisations that has been organising against Prevent.

Azad told Socialist Worker, "It feels like the Daily Mail is an arm of government propaganda—they are going after anyone who is against Prevent."

He added, "The reports coming in are that it's not working and is marginalising Muslims."

"You can see it on the ground—parents are worried about what will happen to their children in school."

But activists are refusing to be cowed by the Tories and right wing press's attacks.

Stand up to Racism is launching a statement in solidarity with those under attack by the Daily Mail.



There is growing opposition to Prevent. Waltham Forest Council of Mosques in east London called for a boycott.

Shelly said, "We will not stop supporting our Black Students' Campaign and Islamic Societies as they lead the way in resisting it on campuses—or any academic who refuses to comply."

Azad said, "It is part of cracking down on dissent and civil liberties and it's having an acute impact on Muslims"

"It's to create a heightened sense of fear and is causing Islamophobia—we should definitely challenge Prevent."

FURTHER EDUCATION

National college pay fight

OVER 4,000 lecturers across Scotland's further education (FE) colleges are set to begin a national strike ballot over pay on 20 January.

The EIS-Fela union members are campaigning for equal pay and to reverse years declining income.

National bargaining was supposed to return to FE after two decades but college bosses have resisted it.

Workers roundly rejected a measly 1 percent pay offer last year.

At the same time the Scottish National Party (SNP) government has embarked on a major reorganisation of the sector with mergers and the creation of new regional colleges.

But it has been a cover for imposing cuts that have led to a dramatic drop in students, staff and funding. Meanwhile top bosses

have trousered millions of pounds of public money by giving themselves handsome redundancy packages.

Bosses say there is no money to fund equal pay.

But colleges have squirreled away £99 million in Arms Length Foundations, hold £214 million in historic surpluses, and there was a £163 million underspend on education last year.

Workers' claims would cost just £15 million to meet in full.

EIS activists now need to build for the biggest possible vote for strikes. The ballot is set to end on 10 February.

■WORKERS AT the University of Aberdeen have voted overwhelmingly for strikes to save jobs.

The UCU union members backed strikes by 74 percent in a ballot.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Solid action puts council on back foot over cuts

SECONDARY school teachers at Labour-run West Dunbartonshire Council in Scotland struck on Tuesday of this week.

The EIS union members are fighting over a restructure of management positions in five secondary schools.

Each school was shut for the day due to the solid action.

Teachers are fighting back as the council wants to remove some deputy head teachers, and cut principal teachers and pastoral care staff.

The proposals are part of £600,000 cuts and will increase workloads, which are already at unbearable levels.

Nearly 90 percent of EIS union members voted to strike on a 61 percent turnout.

If the council doesn't back down there could be fresh



On picket at Clydebank High

strikes again in February warned EIS.

●Send solidarity messages to striking West Dunbartonshire teachers at westdunbartonshire@eis.org.uk

Exclusive Moazzam Begg, Shelly Asquith defy smears

FIGHT RACIST WITCH HUNT

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

THE DAILY Mail newspaper is spearheading a racist witch hunt against the Muslims and students standing up to the government's Prevent agenda.

Prevent was first introduced by Tony Blair's New Labour. But the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 now legally forces public sector workers to spy on people for signs of "radicalisation".

The Daily Mail attacked Moazzam Begg for speaking at a Students Not Suspects tour of universities. He is a former Guantanamo inmate and director of detainee rights organisation Cage.

Moazzam told Socialist Worker, "The Daily Mail has an agenda that goes back decades. It is against Muslims, it's against trade unions—and it's antisemitic if you go back far enough."

He added, "The Daily Mail is racist and xenophobic—Cage wasn't the first to be attacked and it won't be the last."

Sexist

The paper also launched a sexist attack on Shelly Asquith, the NUS vice president for welfare, who's organising against Prevent on campus.

Shelly told Socialist Worker in a personal capacity, "This is the same newspaper that labelled Nelson Mandela a terrorist while the NUS was leading a campaign to boycott South African apartheid."

The Mail alleges that Cage has "deliberately hijacked" the student movement and urged students to "break the law".

But Shelly said, "This is about the Prevent policy that's racially profiling and persecuting Muslim students. Yet there's an absence of students' voices in this coverage."



PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN



MOAZZAM BEGG, pictured with other former Guantanamo prisoners (top), National Union of Students officer Shelly Asquith (left) and Azad Ali from Mend (above) told Socialist Worker they'll stand against the Prevent strategy—whether the Mail (above, right) likes it or not

The Tories claim that the policy is about "safeguarding" young people, but it's whipping up Islamophobia and targeting Muslims.

Moazzam said, "My speciality is issues around torture and detention without trial, not Prevent. But when

students invited me to speak they were very clear that people being handled without due process is important to them.

"These students are fearful about this untested law—and they are right to oppose it."

Muslim students are

already feeling the sharp end of Prevent on campus.

Mohammed Umar Farooq, a postgraduate student at Staffordshire University, was questioned under Prevent last March after he was seen reading a Terrorism Studies book. He is studying



"counter terrorism". It took the university three months to apologise.

David Cameron has ramped up rhetoric around "British values" to brand Muslims as the enemy within.

Moazzam said, "David Cameron talks about the 'rule of law' being a British value, but what about people such as Shaker Aamer and myself?"

Kidnapped

"He was detained in Guantanamo without charge for 14 years and I was detained for three years without charge or trial. People are falsely imprisoned and kidnapped. Where is the rule of law then?"

Shelly added, "They neglect to mention the incarceration and torture of Moazzam and how he's never been charged with a single crime."

David Cameron said that Muslims had to show "loyalty" in his new war in Syria.

But Moazzam said, "What is loyalty—and to what? He's suggesting that you have to agree with his government or you are an extremist."

"If he can call the leader of the opposition a threat to national security and a terrorist sympathiser then us Muslims are screwed."

The Mail stepped up its witch hunt last weekend with a smear campaign against Azad Ali from Muslim NGO Mend. It is one of the main >>>continues on page 19

LIBYA

Cameron quietly steps up land war

THE TORIES have sent 1,000 British troops to Libya to defend oil fields threatened by the advance of Isis-supporting forces.

This is part of a 6,000-strong deployment of US and European soldiers.

A Royal Navy destroyer has been directed to the North African coast and the RAF has been asked to prepare for air-strikes against targets in Libya. This is a major escalation.

The US and its allies are determined to prevent Isis taking Marsa al Brega, a



British troops won't help Libya

major oil refinery.

Libya's oil reserves are the largest in Africa. The US and Britain fear Isis will soon control them.

That's why they have launched a further imperialist intervention. But it faces problems.

A US Special Forces mission last month faced opposition from locals and had to organise a humiliating withdrawal.

The US is also struggling to cobble together a Libyan "unity government" so it can intervene on its behalf.

Two narrowly-based governments have carved up parts of Libya, and militias have grown amid the chaos after the West's bombing in 2011.

In December the United Nations (UN) announced a Libyan Government of National Accord. It has been recognised by the 15 members of the UN Security Council—but has not actually been formed.

Killings happen almost daily. US and British forces will make the chaos in Libya worse.

The West's bombs devastated Libya and its actions are a cause, not a solution, for Isis's rise.

Charlie Kimber